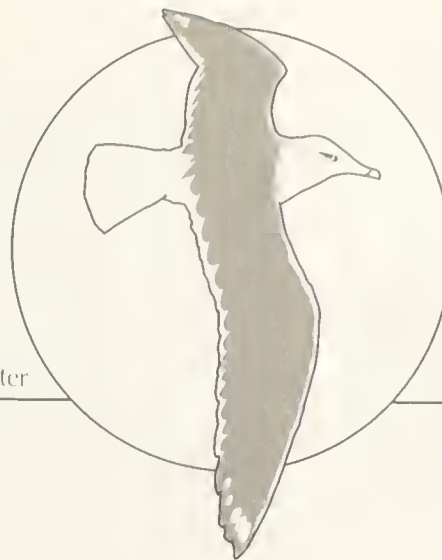


The Gull



Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 85 No. 5 May 2001

CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MAY 18 2001

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Young Birders Connect Across Borders

by *Andre Newman* (Latin America Committee) and *Amiko Mayeno*, GGAS Education Director

Plan now to attend the GGAS membership meeting on Thursday, May 19th at 7:00 p.m. Steve Glickman, a renowned expert on the spotted hyena will be our speaker. See the back cover for complete details.

• • •
**GGAS June Picnic
Save Saturday
June 30th
for our
Annual
Membership
Meeting at
Stow Lake
in Golden
Park from
noon until
3 p.m. More
information
call 510/
843-2222.**

Bird lovers across the globe are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of working together to maintain and protect wildlife habitat. Sharing discoveries and experiences about birds and their habitats in local areas can be an important source of support and encouragement to concerned communities world-wide.

In the newly established Mexico/USA Pájaro Pen Pal Project (MUPPPP), grade school students from East Oakland schools and students from the Sierra Gorda region of Mexico are writing to each other to share their understanding and experiences of nature in their local communities. The participating classes in East Oakland are bilingual, and all of the letters are written in Spanish, which helps all the students to improve their Spanish writing skills. Students share information about their own daily lives and families, but are also encouraged to discuss bird life and conservation efforts in each of their communities, and to notice birds that are common to both locales.

The East Oakland students have been part of GGAS's Martin Luther King, Jr. Wetlands Education Program, directed by Amiko Mayeno, since October of 1999. This program for 4th and 5th grade children in the Oakland public schools, is designed to protect the wetlands, the endangered Clapper Rail, and other local wildlife of MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline Park, to promote racial, ethnic and cultural diversity in the environmental field, and to equip students with

knowledge to make environmentally aware decisions now and in the future. Simultaneously, the Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda (GESG), a grassroots non-profit group in central Mexico, has been working to improve and protect the sensitive Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve in Querétaro state, north of Mexico City, by encouraging an increase in environmental activism among their local people. They too have a successful environmental education program, directed by Marina Rendon Zorilla, in the schools of the Sierra Gorda region. Just recently these two groups have joined forces to foster cultural exchange and stewardship of the international environment, to enhance their parallel programs, and to create an environment for sharing concerns and awareness of the environment between school groups in the Bay Area and in the Sierra Gorda region. Thus the MUPPPP (Mexico/USA Pájaro Pen Pal Project) was born. As many people know, "pájaro" is the Spanish word for bird.

Nearly 90 bird species found in the Bay Area have also been identified in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, including six raptors, numerous wading birds, and even a few migrating passerines. This fact points up the many similarities in habitat that can be found in the two regions. Although children in both writing groups have limited access to all the varied habitats within the two larger areas, after only one outing, they had already identified one species that was seen in both neighborhoods, the turkey vulture!

Continues on page 5

Save the Quail

Quail Update

The Save the Quail Campaign, founded last year by the Golden Gate Audubon Society, continues its efforts to reverse the serious decline of San Francisco's quail populations. The Campaign will take a major leap forward with the upcoming publication of the Quail Recovery Plan, being developed by LSA Associates for GGAS. In the meantime, the Campaign continues to gather momentum.

City Bird

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors recently passed an ordinance naming the California Quail the Official Bird of the City and County of San Francisco. The SF Commission on the Environment has declared its support for the Save the Quail Campaign and COE staff has been helpful with publicity and in dealing with City Hall.

Habitat Restoration

The Campaign has sponsored five work parties to enhance habitat for quail – two in Golden Gate Park and three in the Presidio. Dozens of volunteers planted atriplex, coffeeberry and other species valuable as food and/or cover. Brush piles were built to provide safe refuges from potential predators, and invasive exotic plants

– such as ice-plant and European grasses – were removed to prevent a takeover of the vegetation needed by the quail.

The Quail Campaign is grateful for the participation of the SF Recreation and Park Department in the work parties in the Strybing Arboretum and at Elk Glen Lake. The Presidio Work Parties are co-sponsored by the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service, and we are particularly grateful to Damien Raffa, natural resources specialist with the Trust.

Next Work Party May 19

Audubon members are cordially invited to participate in the Quail Habitat Restoration Work Party on Saturday, May 19 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Natural Resources Office in the Presidio. (From the El Camino Del Mar entrance to the Presidio, take Lincoln Boulevard north for 1/2 mile and turn right on Pershing Drive. After 1/4 mile (where Pershing curves to the left), turn right on "Road 1535-1543." The office is located on the right side in Building 1539. Look for the shade structures.)

The Presidio Park Stewards program will provide tools, water, cups, snack, and work gloves. We will work in an area known to provide habitat to the Presidio quail covey. We'll be protecting the quail's food

and cover plants by removing competing exotic vegetation, and we may also build some brush piles for quail safety. There is poison oak in the area; we'll try to avoid it, but please take appropriate precautions. There's a good chance that we will see some quail! PLEASE JOIN US ON MAY 19TH!

Quail Chick Watchers Needed

Another way to help the Save the Quail Campaign is to volunteer for "Quail Sit 2001," a program to monitor nesting activity in the Strybing Arboretum from approximately June to August. Because we can't predict exactly when the chicks will appear, we're looking for a pool of people who can volunteer their time at a moment's notice. It would be helpful to have people watching the birds before the chicks hatch to determine possible nest sights, and it may be possible to determine when females are on eggs. Quail watchers will gather valuable information about the Arboretum covey and about threats that need to be addressed. If you are interested, please call Alan Hopkins, founder of the Save the Quail Campaign, at (415) 664-0985.

Please Join Us For A Garden Party To Benefit GGAS—Sunday, May 20th, 1–5 p.m.—5920 Ross St. (corner of Ross & Chabot), Oakland

GAS members Jacqui Smalley & John Austin have created an English Garden on their half-acre Rockridge property. Included in the plan are multiple fountains, a rill, a koi pond, and chickens. Jacqui and John are avid gardeners and the yard

has been planted with over 200 heirloom roses, fruit trees, a semi-tropical hillside, vegetables and a timber bamboo grove. The garden should be reaching its peak in May.

Come stroll on the grounds while listening to jazz, and enjoying light refreshments. A small donation of

\$20/per person or \$30/per couple will provide an afternoon of delight and benefit GGAS.

R.S.V.P. (510) 655-6274 or (510) 843-2222. Hope to see you there!

GGAS Needs Your Help: Seeking Education and Membership Chairs

G GAS is looking for two unique volunteers to step forth to chair two very important committees; the Education and Membership Committees, both of which are vital to the success, growth and development of GGAS.

Education Chair: One of Golden Gate Audubon's most successful and vital programs has been our education program. We have developed programs for elementary school children utilizing both the MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline Park wetlands (which we helped create through ten years of litigation) and the soon-to-be Alameda National Wildlife Refuge. We would love to develop similar programs in San Francisco, too. These are dynamic outreach programs which serve as a vehicle to instill a passion for and educate children about the importance of their

natural environment. Our educational programs are highly successful and need to be expanded. If you are interested in environmental education and the important role this can play in helping preserve and protect our fragile environment then you are surely a candidate for this key GGAS position. This will be a tremendously rewarding and exciting experience. You will be able to work closely with our education staff, children and teachers. All for birds and the environment.

Membership Chair: We also need someone to help lead our efforts in attracting new members. Membership is the very backbone of GGAS. Since we live in one of the most environmentally active and concerned areas of the United States our potential is great. As Chairperson you will have the unique opportunity to build this committee into a fully

functional part of our chapter organization. It will be fun and challenging. You'll decide what needs to be done. Perhaps you'll decide to help us organize events, or hold raffles at environmental fairs or work with our Field Trip Committee to hold new birder field trips. We've always wanted to have volunteers host a table next to heavily used birding areas to recruit new birders into GGAS but we need someone to help organize the volunteers. This can be you. You'll meet new people, express your creativity, and be involved in birding and saving our birds. Come join us and accept this rewarding challenge.

If you are interested in either position, or know someone who might be, please call Arthur Feinstein at the GGAS office at 510-843-2222. Thanks, we look forward to hearing from you.

News from Audubon Canyon Ranch

—Fom Betsy Stafford

Bolinas Lagoon Preserve

Snap, howls, gurgles, warbles, squawks...it's spring again in our heronry at ACR's Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. Everyone is invited to come hear the symphony of Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Snowy Egrets, and explore the trails of this 1000-acre preserve. We're open every Saturday, Sunday, and holidays through July 15, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Weekday visits are by prior reservation only; please call ahead to inquire about weekdays, 415/868-9244 (we're closed Mondays).

Bouverie Preserve

More chances to experience Bouverie's rich natural history — May 7, September 29, October 29, November 12, December 10. Please

come and help Land Steward John Martin clear trails, pull non-natives, or work in the native plant garden. Call 707/938-4554 to register and find out what to bring.

Cypress Grove Preserve

Get "HEP!" Our San Francisco Bay Heron and Egret Project (HEP!) takes place each year throughout five North Bay counties and provides a necessary and accurate look at regional patterns and trends of Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Black-Crowned Night Herons. Observation periods this year are March 9-11, April 7-9, May 11-13, June 2-4, and June 16-18. To learn more about this important project and to receive a 2001 HEP packet, please contact ACR's Cypress Grove Preserve

Research Center at 415/663-8203

BBQ for the Birds

Announcing the 46th Annual Mother's Day BBQ

ACR and Marin Audubon will hold the annual Mother's Day BBQ on Sunday, May 13th at Volunteer Canyon (just south of the Audubon Canyon Ranch). The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 10. The picnic will begin at 11:00 a.m. and lunch will be served from noon until 2:00 p.m. Reservations are required and parking is limited. Proceeds help fund educational programs. Truly a great day for celebrating Mother, good friends and the birds. For more information and to make reservations call 415-454-5469.

Big Day Weeding Party In Alameda is Huge Success; Many Come to Help Save the Tern

On a crisp, cool Sunday in late February 80 to 100 dedicated, zealous and tireless volunteers participated in an all day weeding party at the soon-to-be Alameda National Wildlife Refuge to benefit the California least tern.

The endangered California least terns will return for their annual nesting season at Alameda in mid to late April. It is imperative that the terns, who for years have been nesting on an abounded runway, be protected from predators such as the introduced red fox.

Every year invasive weeds poke up through cracks in the runway and serve as cover habitat for predators who can destroy eggs and chicks and generally raise havoc with the fragile colony.

Since neither the Navy nor the Fish & Wildlife Service currently has the necessary funds to adequately protect the tern habitat, GGAS relies solely upon our dedicated volunteers to maintain and sustain a suitable nesting site for the terns. While the use of pesticides may be an easier way to control weeds, it is best to hand weed rather than add potentially dangerous toxins to the nesting

site, the adjacent wetlands and the bay. That is why GGAS and the Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge (FAWR) sponsor this annual weeding party.

GGAS, in cooperation with the City of Alameda sponsored the successful weeding adventure on Sunday, February 25th from 9:30 until 4:00. Coffee, breakfast, lunch and the tools were all provided by the City of Alameda while GGAS provided the person power to do the task. At the end of day, all volunteers received a specially-designed t-shirt to commemorate their participation. The slogan on the shirt reads, "I helped save the Least Tern" and features a sketch of a tern by GGAS board member Alan Hopkins.

While the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge will eventually include approximately 1,000 acres of land, wetlands, and tidelands, the weeding was centered on twenty to thirty acres of flat, gravelly abandoned runway, which is very attractive to the nesting terns.

The smallest of the tern family, the California least tern (*Sterna Antillarum Brownii*) nests primarily in southern California. The San Francisco Bay Area is the only northern California

nesting area, with no terns evident between Santa Barbara and the San Francisco Bay. After an intricate courtship, terns lay from one to three. The eggs hatch in approximately twenty-five days and within three weeks the hatchlings can fly.

The colony that nests in Alameda generally consists of 200 to 250 pairs. It has been estimated that there are approximately 3,000 breeding pairs throughout the state. The birds, which were listed as endangered in 1976, are in decline due to competition with humans for their beach space. Predators including pets, wild animals and in particular coyotes, also raid their nests. However, in Alameda the main predators are the red fox and raptors.

GGAS wants to send a special thanks to all of you who took a day of your precious time to help ensure a successful nesting season for the terns. Thanks to you, when they once again arrive to court, breed and nest on the abandoned runways of the old Alameda Naval Air Station it will be a safer, more welcoming habitat for them.

Weeders, thanks, again for a job well done.

Volunteer Environmental Educators Needed in Oakland and/or Alameda. No Previous Experience Necessary

- Enjoy the outdoors with the excitement and fresh perspective of children experiencing it for the first time.
- Share your enthusiasm when spotting a flock of shorebirds dancing against the sun, or the endangered California Clapper Rail hiding in the cord grass.
- Get muddy with kids, while discovering creatures in the marsh.
- Smell the fresh salt air while guiding children in activities to restore and protect the critical habitat of

MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline Park or the Alameda Wildlife Refuge.

- Help children discover the mysteries of why the endangered Least Tern nests on an airfield, or why the Red Tailed Hawk Glides and the Hummingbird flies backward.

You will work with a team of naturalists, rangers, and high school mentors to lead activities at the MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline Park in Oakland and/or in classrooms in Alameda.

We are looking for individuals who want to share their enthusiasm

for nature and enjoy working with people.

This Fall, programming happens during school day mornings only. In the Spring of 2002, weekend programming will be added.

For more information:

Contact the GGAS Education Program: Amiko Mayeno at (510) 769-2074 or Tsahai Codner at (510) 769-0155, or email us at audubon1@pacbell.net.

Young Birders...

Continued from page 1

Students from the East Oakland community study the ecosystem of the Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline Park, an estuary which is part of their local, urban neighborhood. Students learn about the birds, the mud creatures, plankton, water quality, how to help conserve the wetlands and much much more. Students from the participating schools in the Sierra Gorda live in very different circumstances. Their school is located in a very remote mountain-top community, La Colgada, within the Sierra Gorda Biological Reserve. There the students learn about ecology, recy-

cling, restoration of degraded environments, organic gardening and reforestation.

To initiate the project in the fall of last year, GGAS sent letters from 30 Oakland students who had recently visited the Shoreline Park to the school in La Colgada. In addition, GGAS sent the Sierra Gorda program 15 pairs of reconditioned binoculars (donated to the GGAS Latin America Committee). The letters were received with much excitement and enthusiasm. For some, it was the first letter they had ever received. On their first nature appreciation outing after receiving their letters, the children of La Colgada visited "the Forest of the Children," an area that was reforest-

ed some years ago by the parents and children of their school. With the help of the donated binoculars, some field guides from the GESG office, they were able to identify several species of birds. Their return letters expressed excitement, appreciation for the binoculars, pride in their own natural environment, and an eagerness to hear from their pen pals in the U.S. again. By now, several exchanges of letters have occurred. Some of their first letters will soon be published in the Latin America Committee pages of the GGAS website at <http://www.goldengateaudubon.org>. We need volunteers. See the previous page.

Visitors To Discover The Great Blue Herons Of Golden Gate Park

The California Academy of Sciences and the Golden Gate Audubon Society are once again teaming up to sponsor the Heron Explainer's Project in Golden Gate Park. Last year, the heron rookery enjoyed a record year with the large, regal birds constructing five nests and hatching fourteen chicks. Over 5,000 visitors observed the nesting herons. For the second year, student interns from the California Academy of Sciences will be on hand to show these exciting birds to the public. Led by local heron expert and project director, Nancy DeStefanis, the interns will be at Stow Lake to help visitors find the nests, explain the activities of the nesting birds and answer questions. Spotting scopes will be available to better observe the daily activities of the adult herons and their chicks. The public is invited to come out to Stow Lake and observe these beautiful and charismatic birds. Go to Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park and follow signs to the Explainers Station. The program runs on weekends in

April, May, and June from 10:30 until 1:30 p.m.

Heron Explainers Project At Stow Lake

Sundays, April 29-May 27,
Saturdays, June 2-16

Free Lecture Series

Great Blue Herons Of Golden Gate Park

Thursday May 3, 2001, 7:30 p.m.
Morrison Auditorium, California Academy of Sciences
Enjoy a free evening lecture by Nancy DeStefanis, naturalist and director of the Stow Lake Education Project which monitors the Stow Lake heron colony for the Golden Gate Audubon Society and San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory.

She will discuss the courtship, mating, and parenting habits of the great blue heron. A short film about these charismatic birds "Heron Island", by local filmmaker Judy Irving will also be shown.

Family Program

Saturday May 12, 2001, 11:00 am
Morrison Auditorium, California Academy of Sciences
Nancy DeStefanis talks about the graceful birds who have made their homes at Stow Lake. Children and their adult friends will have a chance to view and handle bird bones, beaks, feathers, eggs, and nests. "Heron Island", a short film recounting the antics of four heron chicks, will be shown.

For free admission to the lectures, go to the membership desk at the main entrance to the Academy.

New Exhibit At California Academy Of Sciences

Birds Of America

Plan now to attend this marvelous exhibit featuring forty-eight lithographs from John James Audubon's Birds of America. Runs from April 21 to June 24, 2001



Field Trips Calendar

Saturday, May 5, BOTHE-NAPA VALLEY STATE PARK.

See April GULL for details. Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Visitor Center. Rain cancels. Leader: Peter Allen (415) 892-8063. (\$)

Saturday, May 5, AQUATIC PARK, San Francisco.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the foot of the Hyde Street Pier (Hyde & Jefferson) for this beginners bird walk. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Ranger Carol Kiser will lead this approximately two hour walk. Dress in layers. This trip is wheelchair accessible. (415) 556-3002, days.

Sunday, May 6, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

See June trip for details. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241

Wednesday, May 9, MINI-TRIP TO BRIONES REGIONAL PARK

ATTENTION! THIS TRIP HAS BEEN CANCELLED!

Saturday, May 12, WILDCAT CANYON REGIONAL PARK.

See April Gull for details. Meet at 8 a.m. by the Arlington Clubhouse on Arlington Blvd. between Brewster Dr. and Thors Bay Rd. in El Cerrito. Leader: Malcolm Sproul (925) 376-8945. (*)

Saturday, May 19, LEONA HEIGHTS REGIONAL OPEN SPACE, Oakland.

Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot for this half-day walk featuring riparian and scrub habitat, singing Wrentit, California Thrashers and more. From Berkeley, take 580 south to the Keller offramp (about 1.5 miles past the junction with Hwy. 13). Go east (uphill) on Keller about 8/10 mile to Campus Drive. Turn left onto Campus, then right onto Canyon

Oaks Drive (this right turn seems like turning into a private parking lot for the Ridgemont condominium complex). Go left to the end to the parking lot. Beginners welcome. No facilities. Leader: Rusty Scalf (510) 666-9936. rscalf@_jps.net.

Saturday, May 19, POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE.

Meet at 8 a.m. at Whitehouse Pool just east of the intersection of Bear Valley Rd. and Sir Francis Drake Blvd., north of Park Headquarters. We will bird Olema Marsh, Bear Valley, Inverness Ridge and Limantour. Bring lunch and liquids. Dress for the capricious coastal climate. Leader: Ken Burton (415) 669-1847

Saturday, May 19, Castle Rock Park.

From Berkeley, take Hwy 24 to I-680 north. Exit at Ygnacio Valley Road, and head east 2.2 miles to Walnut Ave; turn right onto Walnut. At 1.5 miles, Walnut hits a T-intersection. Turn right onto Oak Grove Road, which becomes Castle Rock Road. Drive to the end of the road (about 1.8 miles) where there is a gravel parking lot where we will meet at 7 a.m. We plan on walking about 4 miles, but the trail is flat and folks can return on their own any time. Bring food and water. No official ending time. Be prepared for warm weather. Some target birds include Golden Eagle, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting, California Thrasher, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Hammond's Flycatcher a possibility. This trip will emphasize birding by ear. Leader: Jim Tietz, (925) 283-0818, jmtietz@hotmail.com

Sunday, May 20, MT. DIABLO STATE PARK.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the Rock City parking lot, one mile after passing through the South Gate entrance. Take Hwy. 24 to Walnut Creek, then go south on I-680 to Danville. Take

the Mt. Diablo Rd. exit, go left under the freeway and follow the signs to Mt. Diablo State Park. We will look for Rufous-crowned and Sage Sparrows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, swifts, swallows, woodpeckers and warblers. Bring lunch and liquids. Trip ends about 1 p.m. Leader: David George (510) 339-6848. \$(*)

Saturday, May 26, SIBLEY VOLCANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE, Oakland.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the preserve parking lot. Sibley is a gem in the Oakland hills where one can see birds not commonly found so close to a major metropolitan area. At this time of the year this park should be alive with singing California Thrashers, Rufous-crowned and Lark Sparrows, Western Bluebirds and more. Directions: From Highway 24, take the Fish Ranch Road exit east of the Caldecott Tunnel. Continue .8 miles to Grizzly Peak Blvd. Turn left and go 2.4 miles on Grizzly Peak to Skyline Blvd. Turn left on Skyline and proceed to the park entrance, on the left. A map is recommended. Leader: Bob Lewis (510)845-5001. RlewisO727@aol.com.

Friday-Sunday, June 1-3, YOSEMITE'S BIRD LIFE.

See March GULL for more details. Meet Friday, June 1, at 3 p.m. and on Saturday, June 2, and Sunday, June 3 at 7 a.m. in the parking lot just inside the Hwy. 120 (Big Oak Flat) entrance to the Park. Nearby campgrounds: Hodgdon Meadow and Crane Flat in the Park (800) 436-7275. Forest Service campgrounds: Dimond O on Evergreen Road and Sweetwater on Hwy. 120. Lodging: Sugar Pine Ranch (209) 962-7823, Yosemite Westgate Motel (209) 962-5281, Evergreen Lodge (209) 379-2606, Lee's Middle Fork (209) 962-7408, and Buck Meadows Lodge (209) 962-5281. Leaders: Dave Quady (510) 704-9353 and Bob Lewis. \$ (*)

Sunday, June 3, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-5241.

Wednesday, June 13, MINI-TRIP TO REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK, Oakland.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the small parking lot on the left, just past the kiosk. Take the Warren Freeway (Hwy. 15), exit on to Redwood Road, and proceed east about 3 miles to the park entrance on the left. We may see Black-headed Grosbeak,

Swainson's Thrush, Bullock's Oriole, Solitary, Hutton's and Warbling Vireos. Bring lunch. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman. \$(*)

Friday, June 15, BIRDS AND "THE BARD", Ashland, Oregon.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. in front of Ashland

Bakery, 38 East Main Street. Going to Ashland for some Shakespeare?

Don't miss out on the great Oregon birds. Join me for a day in the field in the Ashland, Oregon, area. We'll find the Dippers nesting in Lithia Park, climb Mount Ashland for a chance at some mountain birds like Clark's Nutcracker, Green-tailed Towhee, Hammond's Flycatcher, Mountain Chickadee and Townsend's Solitaire. In the lowlands we should turn up Ash-throated Flycatcher, Osprey, Vaux's Swift, Bullock's Oriole, Macgillivray Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Acorn Woodpecker and maybe some Common Mergansers. Dress for cool on the mountain. Bring lunch, water and sun block. Leader: Harry Fuller. For advance information: (415) 668-8229 before June 7.

Saturday-Sunday, June 16-17, YUBA PASS, SIERRA VALLEY.

See March GULL for more details. Meet Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at Yuba Pass summit (Hwy. 49), 19 miles east of Sierra City. Meet Sunday at 8 a.m. at Hwy. 49 and 89, one mile north of Sattley. Forest Service campgrounds: Wild Plum (2 mi. east of Sierra City) and Chapman Creek, (8 mi. east of Sierra City). Lodging: Sierra Chalet

(530) 862-1110, Buttes Motel (530) 862-1170, Herrington's Sierra Pines (530) 862-1151, Bassett's Station Motel (530) 862-1297, Sierra Buttes Inn Motel (530) 862-1191, Yuba River Inn (530) 862-1122, and Busch & Herringbone Country Inn (530) 862-1501. Leader: Peter Allen (415) 892-8065. (*)

Friday-Sunday, June 29 - July 1, LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK.

Join the Murphy family on the annual GGAS family camping excursion to Lassen. In past years we have seen Willow, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers, Black Swift, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, Calliope Hummingbird, Black-backed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker and most of the warblers and finches that breed in the mountains. The more serious birders will meet at the Manzanita Lake Campgrounds store at 6:30 a.m. on Friday and again on Sunday. We will bird around the lake for 2-3 hours, return to camp for breakfast, then rendezvous again at the store at 10:30 a.m. for another outing. The Friday outing will be a

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Donations

Golden Eagle (\$1,000 or more)

Edwin B. Pike
Joyce and John Gorton Davis

Peregrine Falcon (\$500 or more)

Thomas Merigan
Carl Hostler

Least Tern (\$200 or more)

Ruth Vose and Arthur Feinstein
Daisy Uyeda
Mary and Ken Cardwell
Robert O'Brien

Clapper Rail (\$100 or more)

Karel and Inge Svoboda

Janice and Thomas Vargo
Ruth Hafter
Dorothy Kakimoto
Rita Brenner and Leonard Schwab
Barbara and Bob Scavullo
Mary Turner
Patricia Gannon
Elsbeth Nagel
John Sproul

Gifts (to \$99)

Nancy Roddick, Caroline Kim, Mildred Twining, Earl Hamlin, Phila Witherell Rogers, Charlotte Nolan, Richard Sproul, Nel Benningshof, Flora Schultz, Martin Friedman, William Ellis, Jr., Berkeley Garden Club, John Sproul, Margery and

Dieter Tede, Ruth Dement, Judith Ann Smith, Esther Clanon, Elizabeth Land, Trent Orr, James Telander, Isa Gucciardi, Carolyn Hubachek,

In Memorium

Eugenia and Peter Caldwell in memory of **Marvin Busche, Jr.** Jane and Michael Larkin in memory of **Muriel Leff.** Silvestre, Larsen & Spector, MD's in memory of **Paul Stempen.**

A bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society helps make it possible for us to continue the good work we do in helping to preserve our natural world for future generations. If you are interested in setting up a bequest we have a team of experts who will be glad to help you. Please call Arthur Feinstein at our GGAS Office for more information. Our phone number is 510-845-2222. Thanks.

Field Trips...

Continued from page 7

leisurely hike of about 5 miles on one of Lassen's beautiful trails. We may climb as much as 700 ft. Wear sturdy shoes and bring lunch and liquids. Suntan lotion, a hat, mosquito repellent and warm clothing may also be necessary. On Saturday, we will meet by the camp store at 7:30 a.m. and caravan north to Burney Falls, Fall River Valley and Baum Lake. Bring lunch and liquids. This all day excursion of about 100 miles will include a 2 or 3 hour swim at Lake Britton while watching for Bald Eagles. (If you forget your swimsuit, the trails at Burney Park offer a wonderful diversion, and fishermen can try their luck in some of northern California's finest trout streams.) Since this is a long and tiring day we suggest a get-together for dinner, at a nearby restaurant instead of returning to the camp-stove. For the Sunday outing we will meet at 10:30 a.m. to drive through the park, making frequent stops for birding. We should reach the south entrance around 1 p.m., depending upon how long we play in the snow at the summit. For this final event, bring warm gloves, a plastic trash bag for a mini-toboggan, and a camera.

Stop at our campsite for further information. We will have a campfire every evening beginning at 8 p.m. Bring your own chair (and a cup of wine if you choose). We will provide hot water for tea or coffee. Check the campground bulletin boards or the office at Hat Creek Resort for our poster, campsite number, and any last minute changes in the schedule. Directions: From the Bay Area drive north on I-5 to its junction with Hwy. 44 in Redding. Go east on Hwy. 44 to the northwest entrance of Lassen. Camping facilities are available at Manzanita Lake. Lodging is available about 15 miles north of the park at Hat Creek Resort, Old Station (530) 335-7121. Other information can be obtained from the park headquarters, Mineral, CA 96063. Leaders Dan and Joan Murphy (415) 564-0074. murphsf@worldnet.att.net. \$(*)

Saturday-Sunday, July 28-29, YOSEMITE ALPINE ECOLOGY.

Plan ahead: This trip will be by reservation only, and the numbers participating will be strictly limited. Make camping or lodging arrangements early! County and Forest Service campgrounds are located between Tioga Pass and Lee Vining off Hwy. 120 (4 to 6 miles west of Hwy. 395), as well as Tuolumne Meadows Campground in Yosemite. Motels in Lee Vining: Best Western Lakeview Lodge (760-647-6545), Gateway Motel (760-647-6767), and Murphy's Motel (760-647-6316). Look for further infor-

mation in the June GULL. For trip reservations and meeting details call - Leader: George Peyton (510) 433-2609 \$ (*)

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (*).

Problems, etc.: If you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, or **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAD A TRIP**, call Anthony Fisher, Field Trips Committee Chair, (510) 658-8769. Loveisant@aol.com.

A Grateful Thank You to Edgar (Ted) and Edith May

The Golden Gate Audubon Society is the grateful recipient of a \$50,000 bequest from the estate of Ted and Edith May. Ted died on November 21, 2000, and Edith on February 6, 2001. We send our condolences to their friends and relatives. The Mays were relatively new members of our Society and we are very appreciative of their remembering us in their will.

We understand that when making out their will they sought to give their money to smaller non-profits to whom their bequest would make a real difference. We are very pleased that they chose GGAS as one of those worthy of their donation.

We would also like to thank Carolyn West and Henry Pilger of Goldman & Associates, San Francisco, for facilitating the bequest.

If you have been following our activities in the Gull, you know that our programs have been expanding significantly. We now have innovative environmental education programs in Oakland, Alameda and San Francisco. We have started our Save the Quail Campaign in San Francisco and are exploring the possibility of creating an Audubon Nature Center in the East Bay. This is all in addition to our on-going efforts to preserve what is left of the natural world in the Bay Area; working to save the endangered California Least Tern's nesting colony in Alameda and struggling to preserve Gateway Valley in Orinda, among many other efforts.

Bequests such as this from Ted and Edith May help make all of this work possible. We hope you, too, will consider leaving a bequest to GGAS. If you are interested in doing so, please feel free to call the GGAS office for more information (510-843-2222) or you can simply use text such as that below to include in your will or trust.

"I hereby give and bequeath to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., in Berkeley, California, the amount of

(state dollar amount of gift or percent of estate)
to be used exclusively to fund the general and unrestricted conservation purposes of the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Golden Gate Audubon Tax ID # 94-6086896."



It's Nesting Time Again

An American goldfinch clung to a ball of soft cotton batting suspended near the thistle feeder, greedily filling his beak until it could hold no more. He then flew to the feeder and promptly dropped the soft lint. Hunger won out this day. But soon he will begin to seriously court his chosen mate with nesting material. Then she will build a nest in the fork of a branch, often woven so tightly that the nest will hold water. It will be made of pliable vegetation and lined with plant down, its rim bound with spider silk.

There are infinite permutations of what we think of as homes for birds—almost as many as there are species of birds. Most of the time they are simply a place to raise a family. But some birds return year after year, sprucing them up and building additions. One golden eagle nest which was occupied for 35 years was 12' deep, 8 1/2' across and weighed 2,000 pounds! Other nests are abandoned after the young fledge but in winter time they become shelter from cold, wind, rain or snow.

Christopher Leahy lists 16 different types of nests in his "Birdwatcher's Companion". Some birds combine types. But it is the varieties of nesting materials which is staggering. Imagination clearly has less to do with nest building material than availability. Proximity to man has magnified the range of substances. You name it and it's probably been used in some way to adorn a bird nest. I loved the ingenuity of a cactus wren in Arizona who had cleverly woven recording tape throughout its nest. I wondered what musician had been tossed aside. Surely not Elvis! One person's garbage is another's treasure.

A variety of birds make almost no nest at all. Or they might merely scrape out a bit of dirt and pebbles

right out in the open, barely lining it. What kind of environment is that for the young? Looking at the list of such birds, it seems that many of them are fierce defenders of their nests: falcons, larger owls, some boobies, vultures and condors, for example. Others, such as terns, nest in colonies where sheer numbers of birds make an open nest more safe. Grouse, pheasant and quail are expert at performing a broken wing act to draw predators away from their exposed ground nests.

Just a bit more sophisticated is the "lined scrape" with little or no external nest but with a substantial lining of down, feathers or vegetation. Geese, ducks, sandpipers, some gulls and a few sparrows adopt this architectural form.

Most of the birds that nest in marshes prefer mounds on open ground or in shallow water, e.g., loons, grebes, waders like herons, spoonbills and ibises, some gulls. Others create floating nests made of dead aquatic vegetation, which are anchored to living plants. These are preferred by swans, some ducks, gulls and a few terns.

Species that utilize ground holes use several types of abode including burrows, holes in river banks and crevices in rocks. The rock wren even paves its entrance with stone chips. A few species can dig their own hole (burrowing owls, kingfishers, and some swallows, to name a few). Some will even use a hole dug by another bird, related or not. Swifts, many wrens, and many other species enjoy these secure locations.

Similar to ground holes are tree holes. Since man is obsessed with cleaning up old tree snags, perfect homes to cavity nesting birds, we can help by setting out nest boxes (bird-houses) which are much appreciated by your yard dwellers. Fortunately, woodpeckers construct new holes

each year to help the housing shortage. Unfortunately, in some instances humans have not realized that removal of dead trees could lead to the extinction of a species. The ivory-billed woodpecker, for example, could not respond to changes in its environment and evolution does not happen fast enough to develop adaptation for survival.

About 25% of N. America's 470 passerines (perching birds) use holes or domed structures. One would think that the figure would be higher since such nests provide so much more protection. One theory is that birds which use open-nest construction are smaller and that they had to resort to open nests because larger birds could easily take over a cavity dwelling.

Over time, open-nesting birds have developed a variety of strategies to conceal or camouflage their nests. There are mud nests like those made by barn and cliff swallows, phoebes, and swifts. Many others, such as American robins, simply use mud along with vegetation in their nests. Then there are suspended nests which are attached to and hang from a branch or other support. This form is very effective in protecting the young from snakes, squirrels and other birds as it hangs from the tips of fragile branches. Cup nests are "classic nests" used by a huge variety of bird species: cuckoos, hummingbirds, thrushes, creepers, blackbirds, tanagers, some towhees. Many are called ground cups. They are preferred by rails, sanderlings, some wrens, a few thrushes, and many warblers.

There are some birds who use a single nest for the eggs of several pairs. Acorn woodpeckers and the groove-billed and smooth-billed anis are N. American birds who use this

Continues on page 11



A beautiful spring of birdsong and blooms is in progress in Northern California, making birders' tasks even more pleasant than usual. This month's column is abbreviated because the Northern California Birdbox was in working order for only a few days during the period, and some reports may have been lost. Observations were gleaned from e-mail and even snail mail accounts in some cases. We hope that the situation will improve so that next month's sightings of spring migrants can get the coverage they deserve.

Albatross to Ducks.

The wintering Laysan Albatross continued at Pt. Arena, MEN, through Mar. 19 (NCBB, BG). Five more of that species were noted during a Sur Canyon aerial oceanic survey, MTY, Mar. 22 (LH). Continued stormy weather at the beginning of the month brought Northern Fulmars close to shore, one over Sutro Baths, SF, Mar. 5 (BF), and another near Pt. Pinos, MTY, Mar. 11 (FT). A single California Condor was circling over the mountains north of Pfeiffer Big Sur SP, MTY, Mar. 30 (JM, GW). A Greater White-fronted Goose remained at L. Merced, SF, until at least Mar. 29, by which time it was in breeding plumage (PS, DM, ASH, MOB). A Snow Goose stayed at the Sunnyvale sewage ponds, SCL, until at least Mar. 25 (MM, VT), and another continued at L. Cunningham, SCL, Mar. 25 (CMi). A Ross's Goose continued to grace Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, MTY, Feb. 28-Mar. 21 (JM, PR, FT), another was at the Monterey Coast Guard Pier, MTY, Mar. 5 (JM), 4 flew over Crab Cove, ALA, Mar. 5 (JC), and another was at L. Cunningham, SCL, Mar. 25 (CMi). Two hundred-twenty of the "Aleutian" race of the Canada Goose were counted at

Beatrice, HUM, Feb. 27 (ABB), whereas 1400 of them were seen at Arcata, HUM, Feb. 23 (ABB), and 575 were still there Mar. 15 (ABB). Beatrice, HUM, also had 176 Tundra Swans Feb. 27 (ABB). A family of 5 **Whooper Swans** (*Cygnus cygnus*) was seen at Klamath NWR, SIS, Mar. 12 (MM), where one had been reported Jan. 10.

Eurasian Wigeons continued to be observed at Seadrift, Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, with up to 5 at that location through Mar. 10 (MW, JR). Single Eurasian Wigeons were found at Heron's Head, SF, Mar. 3 (BF), at Grizzly Island, Fairfield, COL, Mar. 4 (CL), and another at a MRN county location, Mar. 4 (DC). A "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was discovered at the Hayward Shoreline, ALA, Mar. 6 (BRi). The Tufted Duck first reported Feb. 3 was still present Mar. 26 at Seadrift, Bolinas Lagoon, MRN (MW, NT), and the wintering female remained at L. Merritt, ALA (most of the time with its head tucked!) through Mar. 9 (ME). Single Harlequin Ducks were found on Monterey Bay, MTY, Mar. 2 (RoF) and at Glass Beach, MEN, ~Mar. 6 (NCBB). Moss Landing Harbor, MTY, continued to host up to 4 Long-tailed Ducks (Oldsquaws) through Mar. 27 (JM, FT, RoF). Four separate locations had up to 4 Hooded Mergansers each: Adobe Creek/Mt. View Forebay, SCL, Feb. 27-Mar. 16 (BB, LC), Los Gatos Creek Park, SCL, Mar. 1-9 (DG, LS), L. Merced, SF, Mar. 9 (BF), Mountain View Forebay, SCL, Mar. 9 (VT, MR). Two Hooded Mergansers were also at Strybing Arboretum, GGP, SF, Mar. 4-24 (AR, ASH), while single birds were at Roaring Camp, Felton, SCZ, Mar. 4 (JW), and Almaden, SCL, Mar. 11 (MR).

Hawks to Skimmers.

A dark-morph juvenile Broad-winged Hawk was seen in Freedom,

MTY, Mar. 28 (RW), and a Ferruginous Hawk was along Coyote Creek Trail, SCL, Mar. 1-5 (TR). The Rough-legged Hawk found on Bloomfield Ave., SCL, Feb. 25, was spotted again Feb. 27 (MM, MF), 3 others were at Ferndale, HUM, Feb. 25 (ABB), and another continued at Coyote Hills RP, ALA, Mar. 11 (BS, CD).

By now, hoards of avid birders have either seen or have attempted to see the confirmed **Greater Sandplover** (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) at Seadrift near Bolinas Lagoon, where it was first reported Jan. 29 (MOB). It was successfully captured and released by PRBO, permitting positive identification, and remained in the area through at least Mar. 28, to the joy of many observers. Not nearly so exciting but nice to find were two Pacific Golden-Plovers at Elkhorn Slough, MTY, Mar. 26 (JDLT), and another two at Moss Landing, MTY, Mar. 26 (RF, LJ). Only one Rock Sandpiper was reported, a continuing bird at MacKerricher SP, MEN, ~Mar. 6 (NCBB). The Ruff at the Dumbarton Bridge Toll Plaza, ALA, was still in the area as of Mar. 1 (JMo), and another was reported at Loleta, HUM, Mar. 16 (ABB). Glaucous Gulls were found at several locations: 1-2 at Half Moon Bay, SM, Mar. 2-3 (RSTh, ARu), with single birds at L. Merritt, ALA, Mar. 1-10 (ME, BF), at Schwan Lake, SCZ, Mar. 8 (DSu, RW), and at Capitola Beach, SCZ, Mar. 27 (DSu). Up to 9 Black Skimmers remained at Charleston Slough, SCL, through Mar. 16 (MR, BB, LC).

Hummingbirds to Crossbills.

Two Costa's Hummingbirds were reported during the period: one at Hayward Shoreline, ALA, Mar. 6 (BRi), and the second at Del Puerto Canyon Rd., STA, Mar. 20 (FB). San Antonio Valley Rd., SCL, hosted 6 Lewis's

Woodpeckers Mar. 20 (FB), whereas 5 were near the intersection of Hwys. 16 & 20, COL, Mar. 10 (FB). The Redwood Regional Park, ALA, Pileated Woodpecker was seen again Mar. 11-18 (SS, AF). The Tropical Kingbirds of SF continued, with one at the Buffalo Paddock, GGP, SF, Mar. 5-10 (JMo, MU), and the other at Ft. Mason, SF, Mar. 1 (ET). Uncommon on the coast, a Cassin's Kingbird was along Errington Rd., Watsonville, SCZ, Mar. 4-5 (DSu). The wintering **Thick-billed Kingbird** (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) remained at Ocean Colony, SM, ~ Mar. 6-28 (FB, PLT).

Two Yellow-billed Magpies, not often seen on the coast, were in Sutro Heights Park, SF, Mar. 16 (MU). Another Yellow-billed Magpie was reported in Santa Cruz, SCZ, Mar. 17 (fide DSu). Another uncommon coastal visitor was a Mountain Chickadee at Arcata, HUM, Mar. 17 (EE). A Townsend's Solitaire was seen at less than 1000 ft. elevation near Napa, NAP, Mar. 26 (GM). The **Black-backed Wagtail** (*Motacilla lugens*), first reported Dec. 18, remained at Alviso, SCL, Mar. 3 (MD).

Very few unusual Wood Warblers have been reported so far this spring (see Chart), although many individu-

als of common species such as Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers were certainly returning to their usual haunts this month. Several Grasshopper Sparrows were spotted during the period, 1-2 at Ed Leven Park, SCL, Mar. 16-28 (BR, FV, MR), 3 at Madonna Rd., SCZ, Mar. 26 (DSu), and 5 singing at Del Puerto Canyon Rd., STA, Mar. 20 (FB). Nine reports of individual White-throated Sparrows were received over CC, HUM, MTY, SF, SCL, and SCZ counties. One Rose-breasted Grosbeak came to Rodeo Gulch, SCZ, Mar. 11 (DSu). A Great-tailed Grackle continued at the Oakland airport, ALA, through ~ Mar. 6 (NCBB), another was at Locke-Paddon Park, Marina, MTY, Mar. 25-30 (SRv, BE, JM), and a third was at Capitola Rd., SCZ, Mar. 27 (DSu). A Baltimore Oriole identified at Natural Bridges SP, SCZ, Mar. 25-26 was said to be a 6th county record (AK, TN, MOB). At least 8 Red Crossbills were found on the UC Davis Campus, YOL, Mar. 27 (AE).

Wood Warbler Sightings

Nashville Warbler

Mar. 25	Natural Bridges	AK
	SP, SCZ	

Cape May Warbler

Mar. 26	Seadrift, MRN	MW, JA,
(from Feb. 5)		CM

Palm Warbler

Feb. 27	Arcata, HUM	ABB
Mar. 10-26	Seadrift, MRN	fide JR, CM
Mar. 18	L. Merced, SF	DM
Mar. 25	Natural Bridges	BM, AK
	SP, SCZ	
Mar. 24	Amory Parking	ASH
	Lot, SF	

American Redstart

Mar. 1 (from Jan. 26)		Milpitas,
SCL	JD	

Abbreviations for Observers: JA, Jan Andersen; ABB, Arcata Birdbox; FB, Florence Bennett; BB, Bill Bousman; JC, Juan Carlos; LC, Les Chibana; DC, Derek Cragin; JD, Jim Danzenbaker; JDLE, Jeana De la Torre; MD, Matthew Dodder; CD, Carol Donohoe; EE, Elias Elias; BE, Bruce Elliott; AL, Andrew Engilis; ME, Mike Ezekial; MF, Mike Feighner; AF, Anthony Fisher; BF, Brian Fitch; RF, Rick Forner; RF, Rob Fowler; BG, Betty Gallagher; DG, Don Ganton; LIL, Laird Henkel; ASH, Alan S. Hopkins; LJ, Linda Jordan; AK, Anna Kopitov; PLT, Peter La Tourrette; CL, Calvin Lou; MM, Mike Mammoser; MOB, Many Observers; CM, Curtis Marantz; JM, John Mariani; BM, Barry McLaughlin; CM, Cheryl Millett; JMo, Joe Morlan; GM, G. Mugele; DM, Dan Murphy; TN, Newberry Todd; NCBB, Northern California Birdbox; BR, Bob Reiling; BRi, Bob Richmond; AR, Allan Ridley; PR, Peggi Rodgers; MR, Mike Rogers; SRv, Steve Rovell; JR, Jim Rowoth; PRu, Patrick Rump; ARu, Andrew Rush; TR, Tom Ryan; PS, Paul Saraceni; BS, Bill Scoggins; DSu, David Suddjian; LS, Linda Sullivan; SS, Sylvia Sykora; NT, Nancy Teater; RSTh, Ron S. Thorn; VT, Vivek Tiwari; FT, Francis Toldi; ET, Elsa Townsend; MU, Myra Ulvang; FV, Frank Vanslager; GW, Grant Webb; JW, Jim Williams; MW, Matt Williams; RW, Roger Wolfe.

Abbreviations for Counties and Others: ALA, Alameda; COL, Colusa; CC, Contra Costa; GGP, Golden Gate Park; HUM, Humboldt; MRN, Marin; MIEN, Mendocino; MTY, Monterey; NAP, Napa; PRBO, Point Reyes Bird Observatory; RP, Regional Park; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SIS, Siskiyou; STA, Stanislaus; SP, State Park.

Backyard Birder...

Continued from page 9

communal nesting. Some ducks lay an extra egg in another duck's nest, however.

A wintertime stroll reveals many nests which are so well-hidden from predators and from birdwatchers. There are now laws which prohibit the collection of most native birds and which also protects birds' nests and eggs. It's tough to inspect a nest from afar!

This spring, if you are lucky enough to see some nest building in progress, please keep your distance and restrain yourself from disturbing the bird. Some birds will abandon their nest without a pang. Others may be more tolerant once your presence is perceived as non-threatening.

"My" Bewick's wren has been scoping out a strictly ornamental

birdhouse. My husband is trying to add a floor to make it useful. However, I know that male wrens often build "dummy" nests for the female's approval so it may be wasted effort. Even though they can be feisty, attacking other birds' nests, I enjoy the energy of wrens so much that no effort (mine or Dick's) is too great!



May Meeting

How Many Spots On That Hyena?

Dr. Steve Glickman, one of the world's experts on the spotted hyena, will be on hand at our May meeting to show us the intriguing life of this most unique creature of the African savannah. Sometimes ridiculed and often misunderstood, the hyena has many peculiar traits that make it a most captivating study. Starting with an account of the most masculine genitalia among all female mammals, we'll learn all about their complex societies and where they fit in the animal world.

Steve Glickman is currently

Chancellor's Professor of Psychology at UC Berkeley. Because of a fondness for animals, he has conducted an extensive investigation of the evolution of curiosity in animals. For the past 15 years he has directed a comprehensive study of social behavior, anatomical development and endocrinology in the spotted hyena. Hyenas hunt in complex female-dominated groups, and can go after even the largest of animals as prey. Steve is a wonderful lecturer and is sure to captivate us with his insight into these fascinating creatures.

Thursday, May 19, 2001
7:00 p.m. Refreshments
7:30 p.m. Program
Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda, Berkeley

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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